



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Liz Walsh, Chairperson
District 1
Opel Jones, Vice Chairperson
District 2
Deb Jung
District 4
Christiana Rigby
District 3
David Yungmann
District 5

Minutes (Approved)
Joint Meeting Howard County Council and Board of Education
Monday, January 11, 2021
9:30 a.m.
Via Zoom and live-streamed

Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 9:31am

Attendees:

Councilmembers – Chair Liz Walsh; Vice-chair Opel Jones; Deb Jung; Christiana Rigby; and David Yungmann

Staff – Theodore Wimberly, Council Administrator; Gary Kuc, Solicitor; Margery Sayers, Executive Assistant;

BoE attendees – Chair Chao Wu; Vice Chair Jennifer Mallo; Christina Delmont-Small; Vicky Cutroneo; Zach Koung; Antonia Watts; Yun Lu

BoE and HCPSS Staff – Superintendent Michael Martirano; Jahantab Siddiqui, Chief Administrative Officer; Kathy Hanks, Board Administrator; Karalee Turner-Little, Deputy Superintendent;

School Re-Opening Discussion – Presented by Superintendent Dr. Martirano - Dr. Martirano led the discussion about the metrics for reopening schools. The Superintendent stated that HCPSS was committed to the following schedule for reopening of schools:

- February 1st – Small groups scheduled to return to in person learning.
- February 13th – Fall Athletic scheduled to begin.
- April 14th – In person learning to resume.
- All of the milestones are contingent on the metrics being met.

The County Council/Board of Education discussion evolved around the following:

- The continuation of meal delivery to the community. There have been 3.5 million meals served to the community since the beginning of the pandemic. There were 156,000 meals served the week of January 4th;
- There was a survey of 5,000 HCPSS employees about the COVID vaccine; 90% of the employees responded that they would take the vaccine;

- The Governor moved educators up to the 1A category;
- HCPSS plan to use its 140 nurses to help vaccinate HCPSS employees.
Everyone in HCPSS is considered an educator;
- HCPSS plan to have “In-person” graduation at the end of the school year;
- Regardless of timeframes that are established for returning students to in-person learning, HCPSS will need approximately 6 weeks of planning before students return;
- How small groups will conduct in-person learning.

Vice Chair Mallo adjourned the meeting at 11:24am.